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University of Tennessee Office of Research

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Elsevier presentation on publishing available to UT authors

Some 75 UT Knoxville faculty attended a recent Elsevier Author Workshop by Jenny Henzen, a publisher from Elsevier’s Amsterdam office who visited the Knoxville campus, faculty at the UT Space Institute joined by videoconference.

The Office of Research sponsored the event because, while the office provides training and editorial support for proposal preparation, little has been done systematically to help new scholars get their results published.

Henzen’s presentation included an overview of current trends in scholarly publishing in the sciences, covering publishing times, a typical impact curve for published papers, innovative methods for conveying information through graphical abstracts and highlights, and tips about what to publish and what not to publish.

The presentation focused on the roles of the publisher and editor, the fundamentals of a good paper, getting a paper past the first review, ways to make publishing the paper easier for editors and reviewers, ethical responsibilities in scholarly publishing, and responding to negative reviews.

The core of her presentation focused on the mechanics of creating a paper and recommendations for the process of submitting it for publication.

UT faculty participants in the workshop included Bill Neilson, professor in economics and editor of an Elsevier journal; Lawrence Townsend, professor in nuclear engineering; and Brad Fenwick, professor in veterinary medicine. Neilson served as a stand-in presenter for Henzen, who lost her voice when exposed to Knoxville’s spring allergens.

Elsevier has given the UT Office of Research permission to post the PowerPoint presentation on its web site: http://research.utk.edu/training/#author

Note: Mac users who browse with Safari may need to use Firefox to access this presentation.

Random Paper-Writing Tips from the Presentation

“If clarity can be achieved in n words, never use n+1.”

“Write backwards: Figures and tables, methods, results and discussion, conclusions and introduction, abstract and title.”

“Use expressions such as ‘novel’ or ‘first time’ or ‘paradigm-changing’ sparably.”

“Make the discussion correspond to the results, but do not reiterate the results.”

NASA schedules instrument interface workshop

NASA has scheduled its Common Instrument Interface Workshop 2 for June 24, 2011, in Pasadena, California, and is seeking input from spacecraft developers, Earth science researchers, instrument developers, and others about ways to develop instruments and systems that will become secondary payloads on NASA space missions.

The Earth Science Directorate uses the Common Instrument Interface Study Activity to promulgate guidelines for instrument development among industry, academia, and other government agencies.


D.C. trip climaxes UT proposal boot camp

The 2011 class of the UT Knoxville Grant-Writing Institute capped the boot camp experience with a trip to Washington, D.C., to meet with representatives of various federal funding agencies.

Attending the institute were (faculty/fellow graduates):
- Anthropology: David Anderson/Thaddeus Bissett
- Ecology & Evolutionary Biology: Aimee Classen/Lacy Danikas, Ed Schilling/Jennifer Krauel
- Psychology: Todd Freeberg/Julia Bartmess-LeVasseur, Jessica Hay/McCall Sarrett, Jacob Levy/Justin Farley, Joe Miles/James Arnett
- Materials Science & Engineering: Wei He/Yu Cao, Shanfeng Wang/Lei Cai
- Geography: Yingkui Li/Yanan Li
- Electrical Engineering & Computer Science: Nicole McFarlane/Jinlong Gu
- Industrial & Information Engineering: Joseph Wilck/Jonathan Celso
- Robert Porter, Office of Research director of research development, taught the intensive course and accompanied the researchers.

Hines to serve in interim role until end of year

Wes Hines, UT interim Vice Chancellor for Research, will continue in that post until a permanent hire is made following an external search or until January 1, 2012, when he will become head of the Department of Nuclear Engineering.

Lee Dodds, current department head, will continue in that role until his retirement in December. He has held the post for 15 years.

ORAU recruitment fair set for August 11

Some 150 undergraduates who have participated in summer programs at Oak Ridge National Laboratory are expected at the annual Graduate Student Recruitment Fair in August at Oak Ridge Associated Universities.

Fresh from a summer of research at ORNL, the students will present posters on their projects in an all-day session on Thursday, August 11, 2011.

After the poster sessions, the students will be guests for pizza and refreshments from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at ORAU’s recruitment fair in the Pollard Technology Conference Center in Oak Ridge. This marks the 12th year for the fair.

Graduate programs at institutions of higher education are invited to attend the fair are invited to set up a recruiting table (one per institution). Recruiters wishing to attend the poster presentations should be aware that heightened security will require early application for permission to visit.

Key dates:
July 1 – Foreign nationals and permanent resident noncitizens must apply for visit approval to attend the poster session.
Contact: cheryl.terry@orau.org.
July 28 – U.S. citizens must apply to attend the poster session.
Contact: cheryl.terry@orau.org.
July 29 – Institutions wishing to set up a table must notify ORAU.
Contact: ann.farler@orau.org.
Details: Contact Cheryl Terry (cheryl.terry@orau.org)
REMINDER: All proposals must come through Research Office

The creation of a new portal for applying for Department of Energy support under its Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy program has left some investigators under the impression that they can submit directly to the EERE funding source without review by the Sponsored Programs unit of the Office of Research. This is incorrect. The Office of Research reviews all proposals which obligate university facilities, resources, or personnel. External-agency guidelines that allow direct submission by a UT principal investigator do NOT remove the obligation of the PI to submit a proposal to the Sponsored Programs office for review and approval prior to submission to the sponsor. If in doubt, contact Miriam Campo (mcampo@utk.edu) or Debbie Hampstead (dhampste@utk.edu) with questions.

Deadline extended for ARRA reporting

For principal investigators with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board has extended the deadline for submission of an initial report through Thursday, July 14, 2011. Reports submitted by the 14th will be treated exactly the same by the Office of Management and Budget and the RATB as reports submitted by the old deadline of July 10.

Research computing group to relocate

The offices of Research Computing Support are in the process of moving from the old location in 200 Stokely Management Center to 109 Hoskins Library. Appointments with RCS consultants can still be made through the Office of Information Technology help desk at 865-974-9900.

EPA invites creation of environmental phone apps

The Environmental Protection Agency is inviting people to create applications that combine and deliver environmental data from the EPA and other sources to individuals’ smart phones.

The program, EPA Apps for the Environment, will recognize apps developed by students and other citizens that use EPA and other environmental data to address the seven priorities set out by the agency’s administrator, Lisa Jackson. The apps will be judged by usefulness, innovation, and usability. Winners will be honored at a fall event in Washington, D.C.

Any U.S. citizen older than 13 is eligible to enter the competition, as are groups, businesses, and organizations domiciled in the United States. To be eligible for the Best Student Application portion of the competition, all members of a team must be enrolled in a course at the high school, undergraduate, or graduate level.

Key date: September 16, 2011 – submission of completed app.
Details: http://www.epa.gov/appsfortheenvironment/#hatare

Invention competition opens for students, teams

The Colleague Inventors Competition is soliciting entries for its 2011 competition. The entry must be the original idea and work product of a student or team of students, mentored by a university advisor, and must not have been (1) made available to the public as a commercial product or process, (2) described in extensive detail in a publication more than one year prior to submission to the competition, or (3) issued a patent more than one year prior to submission.

The competition is sponsored by Invent Now, the Abbott Fund, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Key date: June 24, 2011 – submission of entry
Details: http://www.invent.org/colleague/enter.html

Abbott Fund accepting applications for project support

The Abbott Fund solicits applications for projects that promote science, expand access to health care, and strengthen communities worldwide. The fund, sponsored by the Abbott global health-care company, distributed $29 million in awards in 2005.

The Abbott Fund invests in projects involving global AIDS care (with a specific emphasis on testing, treatment, and care, especially involving children); access to health care; and science education. The online application process requires an eligibility quiz.

Key date: October 31, 2011 – end of application window
Details: http://www.abbottfund.org/sections/app.html

NSF Cultural Heritage Science program enters final year

A National Science Foundation program to enlist chemistry and materials science in the service of cultural heritage science moved into its third and final year after the second-year deadline for proposals passed in early May.

The program, Chemistry and Materials Research at the Interface of Cultural Heritage Science (CHS), is designed to develop new and improved analytical techniques and instruments with high sensitivity and spatial resolution for noninvasive ways to examine materials from objects significant to human cultural heritage. Proposals might also study degradation of objects, design treatment materials, or develop new predictive models for degradation processes in cultural-heritage objects.

“We hope CHS can foster collaboration between museums and other institutions charged with preserving objects of cultural significance and the academic sciences that do research in chemistry and materials,” said Kelsey Cook, an NSF program manager for CHS. Cook is chemistry professor emeritus from UT Knoxville. “Such collaborative projects can enhance the broader impacts of a proposal.”

By building awareness of the possible linkage between cultural heritage research needs and chemical and material science research, Cook said the NSF hopes to stimulate proposals for such research among the agency’s traditional programs. After next year’s solicitation of proposals, the NSF expects cultural heritage projects to come through existing programs.


Defense Department to fund spine, lung, MS research

The U.S. Army’s Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs is announcing three research opportunities for Fiscal Year 2011:

- Spinal Cord Injury Research Program, which encourages applications that address the prevention, alleviation, or care of medical complications resulting from spinal cord injuries.

  Key date: July 15, 2011, submission of required preapplication
  Details: http://cdmr.army.mil/funding/scirp.shtml

- Lung Cancer Research Opportunities (pre-announcement) program will be solicited in the future, pending funding and conformity to the final program announcements and application instructions. Request email notification of the program announcement at help@cdmrpl.org.

  The Multiple Sclerosis Research Program Concept Award will support research on the prevention, etiology, pathogenesis, assessment, and treatment of multiple sclerosis.

  Key date: July 20, 2011, submission of preapplication
  Details: http://cdmr.army.mil/funding/msrp.shtml

Fall 2010 awards list posted to the web

In fall 2010, the Office of Research newsletter Awards & Recognition did not include a list of awards because of problems with a new data base. Lists of awards during that period have now been published on the Office of Research web site at

http://research.utk.edu/news/10_16-29_10.shtml
http://research.utk.edu/news/12_11-31_10.shtml